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Ouachita News Bureau
Ouachita Baptist University

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OUACHITA
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NEWS

For immediate release

Ouachita's Department of Theatre Arts to present "Junie B. Jones The Musical" Sept. 19-24

By Samantha Pipkin

September 17, 2019

For more information, contact OBU's news bureau at newsbureau@obu.edu or (870) 245-5206

ARKADELPHIA, Ark.— Ouachita Baptist University's Department of Theatre Arts will present its fall family play *Junie B. Jones The Musical* with the opening performance on Thursday, Sept. 19, at 7 p.m. in Verser Theatre. Performances will continue Sept. 20-21 and Sept. 23-24 at 7 p.m., with a matinee on Sunday, Sept. 22, at 2 p.m. Tickets can be purchased for \$10 each at OBU's box office.

Based on the award-winning children's book series by Barbara Park, *Junie B. Jones The Musical* centers around young Junie, a girl entering elementary school who takes the audience along on her amusing adventures in life as a kid.

Stephanie Murry, assistant professor of theatre arts and director of *Junie B. Jones*, said the musical follows four books in the Junie B. Jones first grade book series.

"The writing stays very true to the novels, with lots of familiar characters and adventures," Murry said. "It has an episodic plot structure, featuring many smaller stories in Junie's life."

According to Ouachita student Hannah Hill, who is cast in the lead role of Junie B. Jones, this is a show "for kids of all ages as it deals with real-life situations that everyone can connect with."

"Playing Junie B. has been a blast," said Hill, a senior musical theatre major from Alexander, Ark., "and as she learns important life lessons through the show, I am learning, as well."

John Briggs, lecturer in music, is serving as music director for the production; Stacy Hawking, fine arts administrator and box office manager, as choreographer; Eric Phillips, professor of theatre arts, as scenic and lighting designer. Sammy Campione, a sophomore musical theatre major from Waxahachie, Texas, is serving as stage manager and will be assisted by Dani Thompson, a sophomore theatre arts major from Benton, Ark.

All ages are welcome to enjoy this quirky, fun and curious show. Tickets are \$10 each and may be purchased from the OBU Box Office weekdays from 1-5 p.m. Tickets also are available online at www.obu.edu/boxoffice. Current Ouachita students may receive one free ticket upon presentation of their student ID at the box office.

For more information, call the box office at (870) 245-5555 during business hours.

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